

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/686,664

Examiner

Michael P. Straighttiff

Applicant(s)

HINO, KAZUHIKO

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 2.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/17/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

MPS

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 11/15/2004 is acknowledged.
2. Applicant has chosen to cancel non-elected claims 3-5 in this same paper.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-2 are allowed.

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. In regard to Claim 1, U.S. Patent No. 5,868,663 to Katsurada et al. discloses "[A]n end of side-looking endoscope, comprising: and end body which is provided at an end of an endoscope insertion portion, the end body having a stand accommodation groove and an optical system accommodation room, the optical system accommodation room being formed on a side of the stand accommodation groove and accommodating an image-taking optical system and an illumination optical system" (See Katsurada et al., Figure 3, References 6 and 15), "a treatment devise stand which laterally guides an end of a treatment devise from the end body, the treatment devise stand being swingably supported within the stand accommodation groove" (See Katsurada et al., Figure 3, Reference 9), and "a cap which is detachably affixed on the end body to cover the end body" (See Katsurada et al., Figure 1, Reference 30). Katsurada et al.

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does not meet the limitation "a protective covering which covers the optical system accommodation room, the protective covering having an engagement part for engaging with the end body, the protective covering being joined to the end body through the engagement part; and a sealing agent through which the protective covering is screw-connected to the end body on a joint surface of the end body." The remaining prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a "protective covering" with such a "sealing agent" or "screw-connection" and therefore there is no motivation to modify Katsurada et al. to have this limitation.

b. Remaining claims are necessarily allowed as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Straightiff whose telephone number is (571) 272-4774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MPS



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